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U.S. National
Arboretum

Visitor Guide

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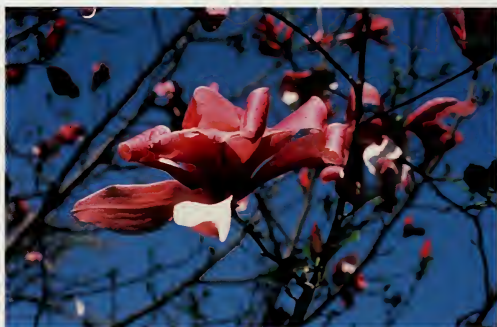


U.S. Department of Agriculture
Agricultural Research Service
Program Aid 309
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About the Arboretum

The U.S. National Arboretum is a U.S. Department of Agriculture research and education facility and a living museum. It is dedicated to serving the public and improving our environment by developing and promoting improved floral and landscape plants and new technologies through scientific research, educational programs, display gardens, and germplasm conservation. It is a national center for public education that welcomes visitors in a stimulating and aesthetically pleasing environment.



As the principal in-house research arm of the U.S. Department of Agriculture, ARS conducts research to develop and transfer solutions to agricultural problems of high national priority and provides information access and dissemination to—ensure high-quality, safe food and other agricultural products, assess the nutritional needs of Americans, sustain a competitive agricultural economy, enhance the natural resource base and the environment, and provide economic opportunities for rural citizens, communities, and society as a whole. For more information about ARS, visit its web site at www.ars.usda.gov.



Seasonal Highlights



Spring arrives with the appearance of woodland wildflowers. Magnolias cloak themselves in fragrant blossoms before their leaves appear. Scilla and miniature daffodils spread forth a lavish carpet in the Court of Honor. Mount Hamilton's slopes are covered with thousands of azaleas as spring reaches its height. Dogwoods, crabapples, peonies, and roses complete spring's exuberant display.



Summer brings daylilies and crapemyrtles, welcoming the heat of summer with showy, resilient blooms. Herbs grow in harmony with myriad colors, textures, and scents. Waterlily flowers glisten like gems on the Administration Building pool. The prairie blooms in a rich tapestry of color. Meadows undulate in the summer wind.



Autumn leaves begin their subtle color in late October. The palette ranges from the rich yellows of tulip poplar and hickory to the bright red of black gum and the purplish red of sweet gum and dogwood. Spider lilies and native witch-hazels flower as days grow cooler.



Winter brings calm and quiet. Snow and ice transform the gardens into a jeweled landscape. Hollies sparkle with brilliant red berries. Dwarf conifers, boxwood, and Southern magnolias greet the crisp cold with bright green leaves. Winter winds whisper through the leaves and seedheads of ornamental grasses. In February and early March, camellias, Japanese apricots, witch-hazel, winter jasmine, and sweet box bloom defiantly as the days grow warmer.



At any time of year, you'll want to linger in the National Bonsai and Penjing Museum and survey a priceless collection of miniature trees. Throughout all seasons, dramatic vistas await you. Make it a point to see the Arboretum's meadows and forests, as well as the Capitol Columns.

January-February-early March

Witch-hazels, hollies, dwarf conifers

Late March-early April

Magnolias, spring bulbs

Mid-April

Woodland wildflowers, flowering cherries

Late April-May

Crabapples, dogwoods, azaleas, peonies, roses, irises

June-July-August

Daylilies, waterlilies, crapemyrtles, herbs, meadow wildflowers

September-October

Crabapple and viburnum fruits, herbs, meadow wildflowers

November-December

Holly berries, conifers, boxwood





It's Your National Arboretum



The Grounds are open daily from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., except December 25.



The National Bonsai and Penjing Museum is open daily from 10:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., except December 25.



Information and educational displays are located in the **Administration Building**, which is open daily from 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. weekdays, and 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. on most weekends.



The Arbor House Gift Shop is open daily from 10:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., from March 1 through mid-December.



For information on guided tours, classes, events, and volunteer opportunities, contact **Education and Visitor Services** at (202) 245-4523.

The **Friends of the National Arboretum (FONA)** supports research and educational projects at the Arboretum. For more information, call (202) 544-8733 or visit <http://www.fona.org>.

The **National Bonsai Foundation (NBF)** supports the National Bonsai and Penjing Museum at the Arboretum. For more information, call (202) 396-3510 or visit <http://www.bonsai-nbf.org>.

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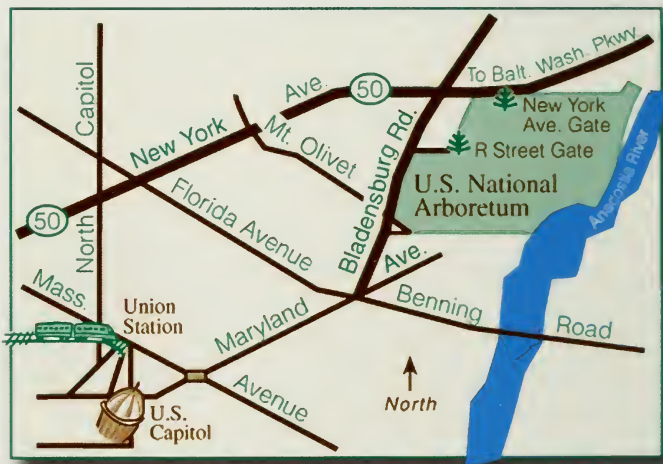


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Getting to the National Arboretum

The National Arboretum is located in northeast Washington, D.C., off New York Avenue (Route 50) and Bladensburg Road. Gates are located on the New York Avenue service road and on R Street, off Bladensburg Road. Parking is free.

The nearest Metrorail stop is Stadium Armory on the orange and blue lines. Transfer to Metrobus line B2 and get off at R Street. Walk 2 blocks down R Street to the entrance gate. On weekends and holidays, ride the X6 bus from Union Station directly to the Arboretum.



U.S. National Arboretum
3501 New York Avenue, NE
Washington, DC 20002-1958
Telephone (202) 245-2726
Fax (202) 245-4575
<http://www.usna.usda.gov>

In case of emergency, contact **Security** at (202) 245-4566 or the information assistant at the Administration Building.



Ground Rules

We invite you to discover, enjoy, and learn about the amazing variety of plants. We ask your help in protecting and preserving this national living treasure.

Visitors are expected to abide by the rules posted at the information kiosks and in the Administration Building lobby.



All plants, fish, and wildlife are protected. Do not collect plants, including flowers, leaves, or seeds.



Picnic only in the National Grove of State Trees picnic area. Barbecues, fires, alcoholic beverages, and radios are prohibited.



Playing ball, flying kites, swimming, wading, fishing, skating, skiing, sledding, rollerblading, riding scooters, and other sports activities are prohibited. Please bicycle on roadways only.



Pets must be leashed at all times and must be controlled so that they do not enter garden beds or eliminate in them. Owners must clean up after their pets. Pets are not allowed in the Administration Building or in the National Bonsai and Penjing Museum.



Children under the age of sixteen must be accompanied by an adult.



Commercial and wedding photography require a permit and may require a fee.



Tree climbing is not allowed.



Obey the 20-mph speed limit. Park in designated spaces and not on the grass.



In garden areas, stay on designated paths.





U.S. National Arboretum

Map



Collections



Administration Building and Visitor Services

Landscape plantings highlight the very best of the National Arboretum plant introductions, while an array of aquatic plants and exotic koi fish flourish in a pool surrounding the building.

- *Arboretum Introductions*
- *Aquatic Plants*
- *Lobby Exhibits*
 - *Auditorium*
 - *Information*



Asian Collections

This dramatic landscape overlooking the Anacostia River features plants collected from the rich floras of China, Japan, and Korea.

- *Japanese Woodland*
- *Asian Valley*
- *China Valley*
- *Korean Hillside*



Azalea Collections

Late April ushers in the most colorful display of azaleas in Washington. Enjoy the landscaped trails that climb to the top of Mount Hamilton and its view of the U.S. Capitol.

- *Glenn Dale Azalea Hillside*
- *Morrison Garden*
 - *Lee Garden*

Collections



- *Anacostia River
Overlook*

Dogwood Collection

Many exceptional varieties and species of dogwoods are found in this tranquil setting with lovely vistas of the Anacostia River.



- *Prairie*
- *Southeastern
Coastal Plain*

Fern Valley

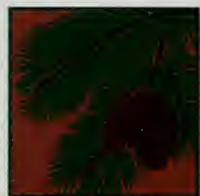
Native ferns, wildflowers, shrubs, and trees are planted in natural settings representing various habitats of the eastern United States.



- *Arbor House*
- *Gift Shop*
- *FONA Office*

Friendship Garden

An innovative landscape of perennials abounds with year-round beauty, from the earliest spring bulbs to winter's elegant ornamental grasses.



- *Watnong
Collection of
Dwarf Pines*
- *Spruces • Firs*

Gotelli Dwarf and Slow Growing Conifer Collection

This outstanding collection occupies a 5-acre landscaped hillside. Groups of spruces, firs, and dwarf pines grow nearby. The collection also features the Arboretum's crape myrtle introductions.



Collections



Holly and Magnolia Collections

Spring brings clouds of magnolia blossoms to this 10-acre planting. Winter is brilliant with the showy berries and glossy green leaves of holly.



• *Japanese, Chinese, American, and International Pavilions • Tropical Conservatory*

National Bonsai and Penjing Museum

Inspired by the design traditions of Japan, China, and North America, this superb collection of artistically trained trees and related artifacts is presented in four distinct pavilions, each complemented by its own meditative garden.



National Boxwood Collection

The most complete living collection of boxwoods in the world covers 5 acres and contains over 100 *Buxus* species and varieties.



National Capitol Columns

Twenty-two sandstone Corinthian columns that once stood at the east portico of the U.S. Capitol now create a picturesque landmark in the heart of the Arboretum.



Collections



- *Picnic Area*

National Grove of State Trees

Trees representing every state and the District of Columbia are planted in this 30-acre living monument to America's forest resources.



- *Historic Roses*
- *Knot Garden*
- *Theme Gardens*

National Herb Garden

This 2½-acre jewel includes 800 kinds of herbs from around the world growing in 10 theme gardens and a cottage style garden filled with 11 different categories of historic and species roses and their companion plants.



- *Daffodils*
- *Peonies*
- *Daylilies*

Perennial Collections

Formal beds of daffodils, peonies, and award-winning daylilies bloom exuberantly from late February through July.

